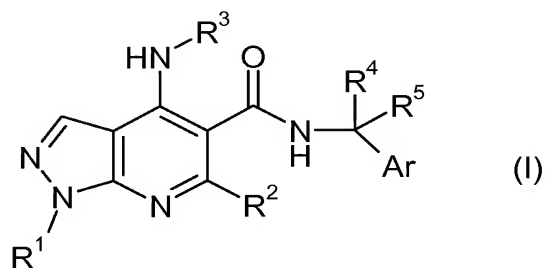
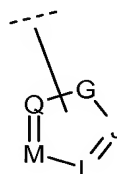
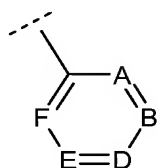


ABSTRACT

The invention provides pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine compounds of formula (I) having a -C(O)-NH-C(R⁴)(R⁵)-aryl substituent at the 5-position of the pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine ring system wherein at least one of R⁴ and R⁵ is not a hydrogen atom (H) compound or a salt thereof:



wherein Ar has the sub-formula (x) or (z).



These compounds are useful as inhibitors of PDE4.